

September 9, 2011

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a school counselor for Moline School District 40 in Moline, IL. I currently serve 4 elementary schools and over 1,000 students. The needs of our students and families are great. Often our toughest families are low income and lack resources and skills. These families come to the school for help out of great desperation and little hope for change. When they do, we at the school usually recommend the families work with Youth Service Bureau because of their excellent reputation.

Youth Service Bureau provides low cost or no cost counseling. They are also flexible in their scheduling policies and procedures. YSB has helped many, many families in our community.

I was devastated to hear Youth Service Bureau might lose grant funding to continue to provide no cost counseling services. This is not right. Many of the families in the greatest need of services are the most unable to pay. Also, many families are hesitant to get help. Having to pay a fee would be one more stumbling block in the way of seeking needed help. I know that resources are very tight in the state of Illinois. However I am also very confident that the state will only increase its problems in the community by taking away no cost counseling for families. The problems YSB workers tackle daily are not simple nor do they have easy answers. They are complex problems with layers of difficulty to address. These families need time to work on making things better.

Please reconsider funding the grant used to help families when they need it the most.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sarah Walas Teed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sarah" being more prominent.

Sarah Walas Teed
Moline School District 40
School Counselor

To whom it may concern:

My name is Johnnie M. Woods, I am a family therapist for Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County. Parents send their high school graduates to me so that I can talk to them about the social work profession, they are young people who want to give back to their community and help people who are less fortunate.

It is difficult for me to encourage them to help people, something that I myself have spent my life doing. It's difficult because it seems that as a nation we do not care about the less fortunate. Recently a young African American male, the child of a drug addicted mother come up to me and said! "Miss Johnnie, I want to tell you how much you impacted my life, I graduated from college a few years ago". I worked with this young man when he was in the fifth grade. What would have happened to the children in that family and the many other families we have worked with if someone had not been there for them.

Since about 2005 our community has had a large influx of refugees from war torn countries, last week I was told that the Rock Island High School refugee population increased by over one hundred students. Since 2005 a number of refugee families have been referred by the schools and other agencies to Youth Service Bureau for counseling. We have provided family and individual counseling to those families and other low-income and minority families for many years, when it is necessary we go above and beyond the call of duty for our clients. People who enter this profession already know that they are never going to be rich, however we do expect to survive, with the current cuts in funding we are uncertain as many other Americans are of our survival. I was among a few thousand employees who lost jobs in the eighties after International Harvester closed, like many of those employees I re-educated myself. It is 2011 and I am looking at what I can consider another threat to my well-being, but not employees of social services agencies are suffering, but what about the clients who will not receive the services they so desperately need. I could say a lot more but I am going to stop here to allow some of my clients to speak to you! Included in this packet are their stories in their own words, who better to tell a story than the ones who experienced it? I would like to introduce to you; Beatrice Kwabo, Martina, Gbeleh, and Philimena Glahn.

African refugee needs furniture, winter coats

By Kay Lurie
klurie@qctimes.com

Guns were firing all around her. If she hoped to survive, Martina Gbeloh had to grab her children and run into the forest, trying to cross the porous border. She needed to escape her war-torn African homeland of Liberia.

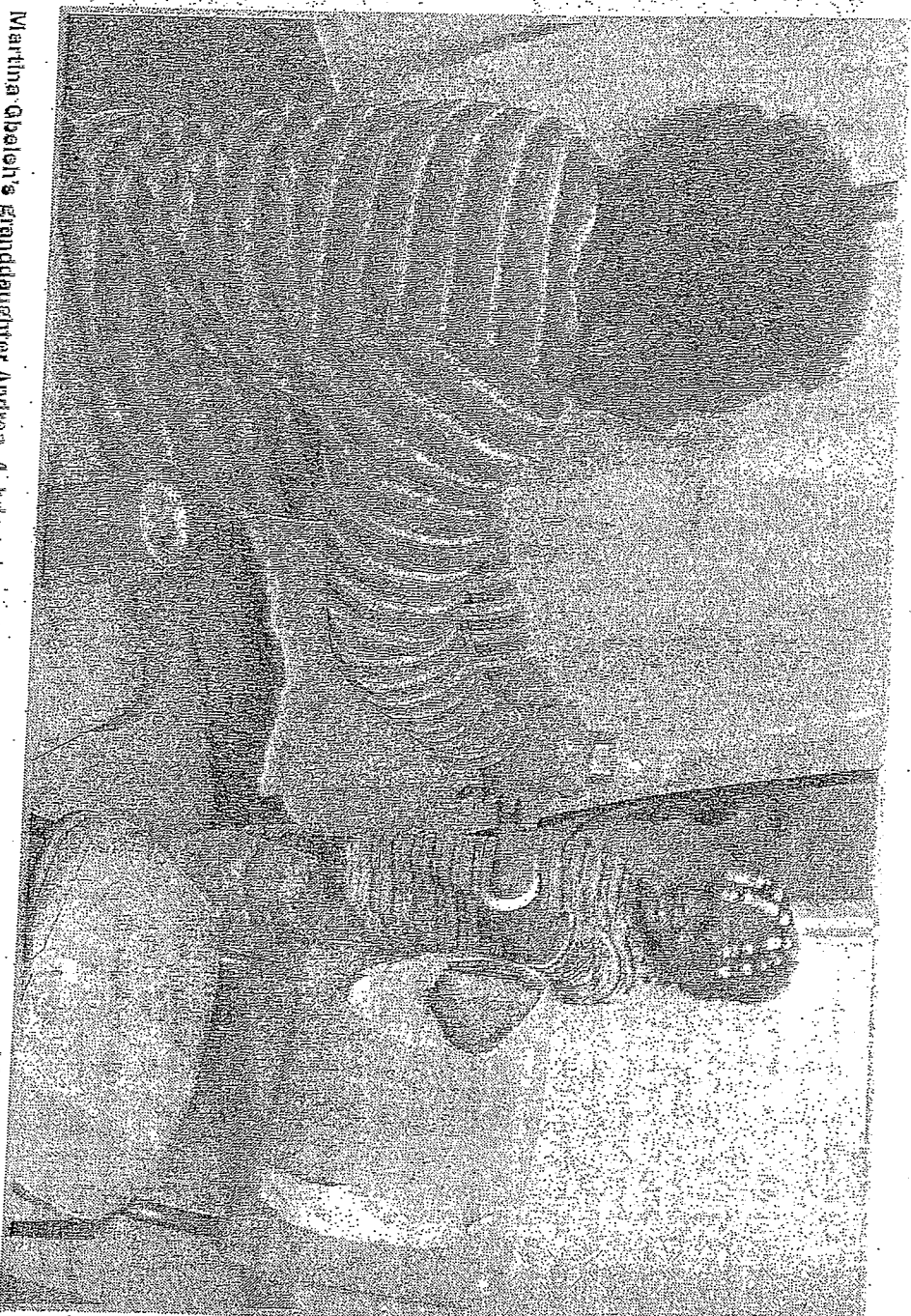
She already had lost so much. Her mother and father were killed in the civil war. The father of her two youngest children was slain in the war, too. But Gbeloh was seven months pregnant.

Plus, the mother of five also was born severely bowlegged, making it difficult and painful for her to move quickly. Still, she made it through. That was in 1995.

About 10 years later, she made it all the way to the United States as a refugee. Now, her entire family — including all five children (ages 23, 20, 17, 15 and 13) and her grandchildren — lives in the Quad-Cities.

"I tell God, 'Thank you,'" the 45-year-old Gbeloh said, wiping her brow. As she recounted the story in her crowded apartment at the Century Woods housing complex in west Rock Island, "By now, I could be a dead person."

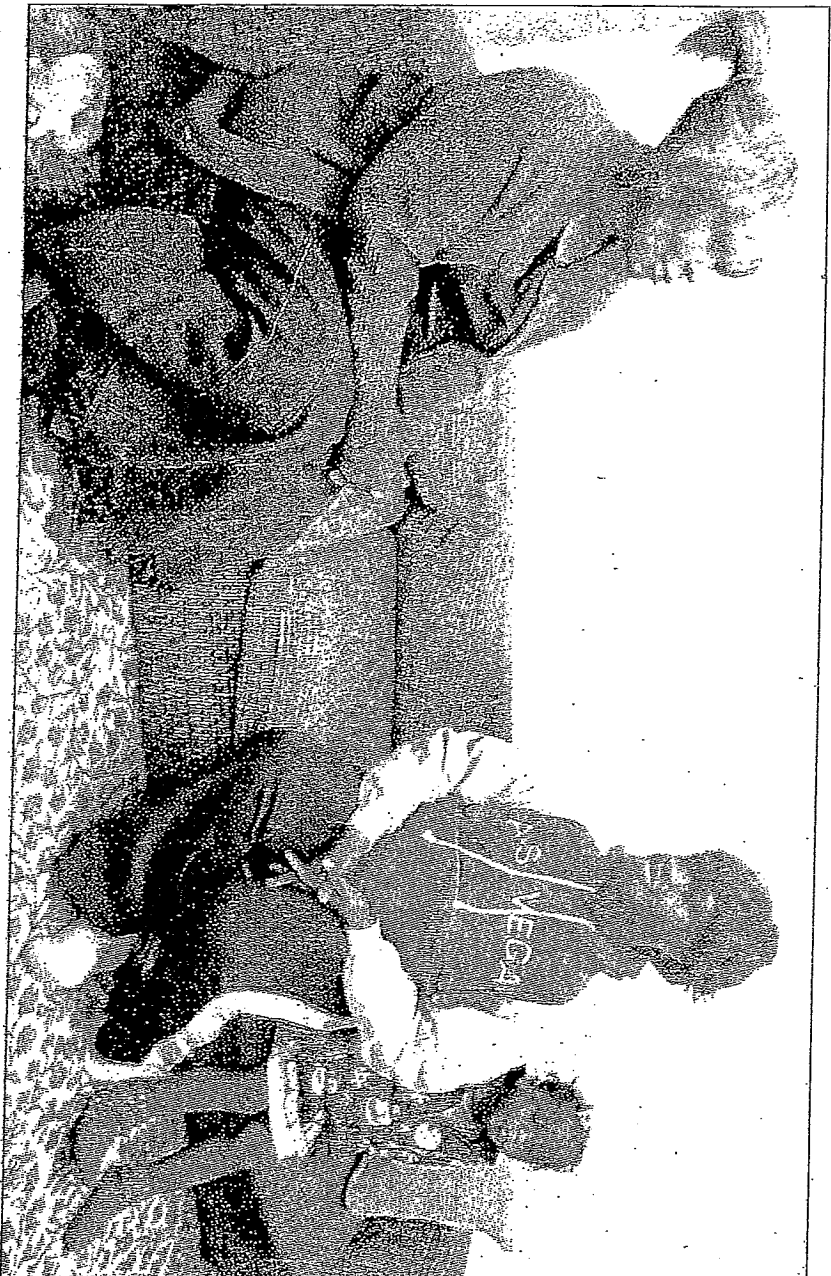
Gbeloh gave up everything to get here, even going so far as to temporarily leave one of her daughters behind in Africa



Martina Gbeloh's granddaughter Andrea, 4, brings her a bottle of water in the kitchen of their Rock Island home. Gbeloh is a disabled Liberian refugee. Both of her parents were killed in the Liberian civil war, as well as the father of her two youngest children. She has two teenage boys, a teenage daughter and an adult daughter who has three children of her own.

John Schmitz/QUAD-CITY TIMES

YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU



Family counselor Johnnie Woods, left, of Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County visits with Phillimena Glahn and her daughter, Promise, 3, at their Rock Island home.

Photos by Larry Fisher/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Agency helps families get a new start in Q-C

By Mary Louise Speer
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Johnnie Woods is accustomed to the cheerful chaos of chatter and children playing at Phillimena Glahn's



countries of origin.

"They don't understand us and we don't understand them. They just don't know our culture," Woods said.

Glahn became a refugee in

WQPT

trims 2 jobs

Local public TV station now has staff of 12

By David Burke
QUAD-CITY TIMES

Already facing financial hurdles since its funding was cut by Black Hawk College, WQPT-TV eliminated two staff positions this week.

Public affairs director Susan McPeters confirmed Thursday night that she was one of two employees laid off from the station.

"It's enough to help us around a substantial deficit," WQPT general manager Rick Best said of the elimination of the two jobs, which leaves the station with a staff of 12.

Although the station had a successful December pledge drive, Best said PBS outlets are among the non-profits suffering because of the economy.

"It's still not enough to be meeting our revenue projections," he said.

McPeters, who had worked at the station since 1989, hosted the interview program "Perspectives" and the magazine show "Life & Times," the latter of which was recently pulled from the station's schedule.

"It really truly was the best job I ever had" in 36 years of broadcasting, McPeters said. "I'm just sad it couldn't go on any longer."

the age of Glahn's youngest daughter, 3, and another drops by to deliver the mail. A few brightly colored toys are scattered around on the floor, ignored for the moment as the lively preschooler plays with her new computer.

"I'm very thankful for Youth Service and especially for Johnnie Woods," said Glahn as she relaxes on the couch. She is a refugee from the African country of Liberia and a single mother of children ages 15, 12, 10, 8 and 3. "Johnnie, she's such a blessed lady to me."

Woods, a family counselor at Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County, often visits clients at their homes. She works with the rising numbers of African families who are forging fresh beginnings in the Quad-Cities, and with others in need.

The bureau serves clients of all socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds. Some families and youths come to the Rock Island office at 4709 44th St. for assistance on dealing with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, and others for delinquency or pre-delinquency issues. The bureau also offers families services at their homes or schools.

"Our philosophy is family first. What I try to do is try to help people," said Woods, who received the "I Have a

For her work as a family counselor at Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County, Johnnie Woods received the "I Have a Dream" Award this week at the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Rock Island.

IF YOU GO

Today, the Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County presents "Keys to A Good Time," a fundraising event to support the delinquency prevention and counseling services.

The event features Chicago Dueling Planos and a silent auction. The tickets are \$40 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres and entertainment. A cash bar is available. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling the bureau at (309) 793-6460. The event runs 7-10 p.m. at Heritage Hall on Arsenal Island, Rock Island.

ABOUT YOUTH SERVICE BUREAU

Youth Service Bureau of Rock Island County offers home- and school-based therapy and mental health services at the center for families, individuals, couples and groups.

The Peer Justice program serves youths, 12-17 who have had contact with police for a misdemeanor or status offense or ordinance violation. Program referrals are made by officers, PAQ, or Prevention Attention Quick, is an early intervention and education program geared at youngsters ages 7-11. Program funding comes from United Way or the Quad-Cities Area, client fees, state, county and municipal governments and other sources. For more information, call (309) 793-6460.

Dream" community service award this week during the 26th annual Martin Luther King Jr. memorial service at the King Community Center in Rock Island.

Some refugee families need assistance in trying to adapt to the new circumstances

may also have been in a refugee camp," she said.

World Relief Moline referred her to Youth Service Bureau last year for help in dealing with situations that involved attacks against her home and oldest son and a nephew. The difference in cultures flared up when Glahn's younger sister died, and all family members cut off their hair. Her young daughters were teased by classmates about having shaved heads.

"It is our custom to show that your family member was so important to you," Glahn said.

The incident was settled through communication and the school officials knowing how to share the information with students, Woods said.

A social worker since 1988, Woods drew upon her community connections to arrange for the toys and clothing at Christmas time. She grew up in the Lincoln Homes project in Rock Island and raised her children as a single parent.

The key is education, she said. "I remember being one of those children and not knowing until I was (19 or) 20 that college could exist for me, that additional training could exist for me."

Those insights, combined with a bachelor's degree from Augustana College, help her

AGENCY | B2

nated all of the funding for the station — which it has housed since WQPT signed on 26 years ago — beginning with the 2007-08 budget.

David Burke can be contacted at (563) 383-2400 or dburke@qctimes.com. Comment on this story at qctimes.com.

Scott Co. to save funds by sharing advocate

By Kurt Altemeier
QUAD-CITY TIMES

The Scott County Board of Supervisors approved an inter-governmental agreement for sharing the services of a mental health advocate, saving the county about \$22,000.

The county will share the services of Rose McVay, who works out of Scott County, with Cedar, Clinton, and Muscatine counties. Previously, Clinton County had its own mental health advocate, but that person retired at the end of 2008.

Already faced with mental health funding issues, the agreement is a bit of good news for the supervisors.

With the addition of Clinton County to the agreement, Scott County's costs for the position are expected to drop from 72 percent to 46 percent. A county's

COUNTY | B2


Ann McGlynn The Quad-City Times | Posted: Sunday, December 24, 2006 12:00 am | Loading...

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Jeff Cook/QUAD-CITY TIMES Beatrice Kwabo, left, and her mother, Ninda Weah, originally of Liberia, dance and sing traditional songs praising God after their wish for new furniture came true Thursday. Beatrice and her four children were helped with donations made to Wish List Quad-Cities.

<http://webcache.googleusercontent.com/search?rls=com.microsoft%3Aen-us%3AIE-Addres...> 9/9/2011

an interest-free loan from a revolving fund to pay for travel costs. The refugee is given a time limit to make good on the loan. Some take years to pay, he said.

Kwabo is on her third week of working a \$10-an-hour, second-shift job cutting meat at IBP. Her mother, also a refugee from Liberia, comes to watch Matthew, Annah, Evelyn and Anglyn while **Kwabo** works. She catches her ride at 1:45 p.m. and returns home as late as 2 a.m.

Kwabo is taking classes to learn English. Her children attend school at the Rock Island Primary Academy and Rainbow Child Development Center. She hopes to bring her three oldest children to the United States someday.

Tonight, she will attend Christmas Eve services at Bethel Assembly of God Church.

"God helps us so we can be strong," **Kwabo** said. "Thank you for the miracle."

Ann McGlynn can be contacted at (563) 383-2336 or amcglynn@qctimes.com.

HOW TO HELP

Wish List **Quad-Cities** accepts cash donations only. United Way of the **Quad-Cities** Area has established a bank account into which contributions are deposited.

After seven years, hundreds of wishes have been granted and more than \$150,000 has been raised and distributed.

Do not mail donations to the **Quad-City Times**.

Please mail your check to Wish List **Quad-Cities**, c/o United Way of the **Quad-Cities** Area, 3247 E. 35th St. Court, Davenport, IA 52807.

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African refugee needs furniture, winter coats

By Kay Luna
kluna@qctimes.com

Guns were firing all around her.

If she hoped to survive, Martina Gbeleh had to grab her children and run into the forest, trying to cross the border. She needed to escape her war-torn African homeland of Liberia.

She already had lost so much. Her mother and father were killed in the civil war. The father of her two youngest children was slain in the war, too.

But Gbeleh was seven months pregnant.

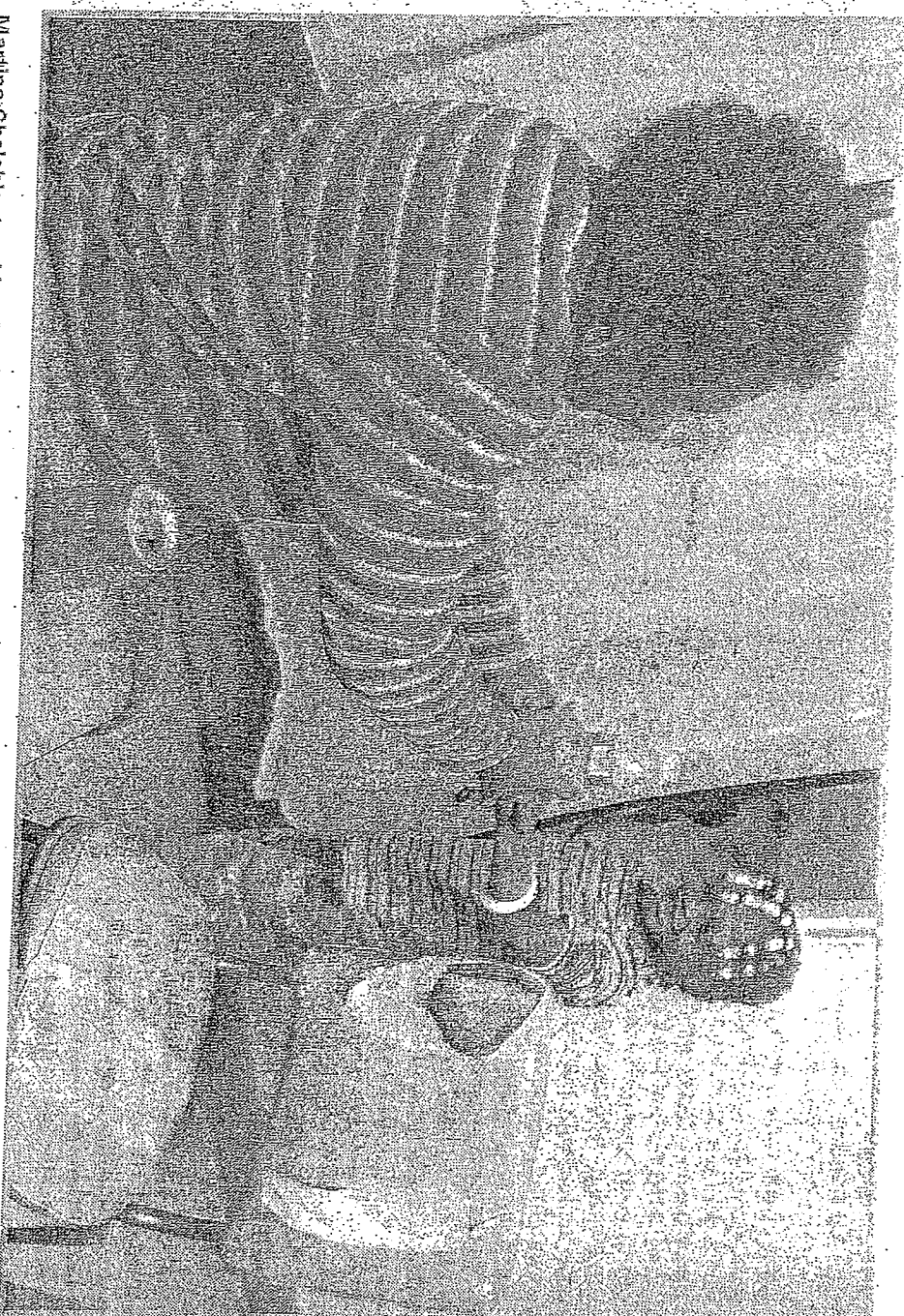
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Gbeleh gave up everything to get here, even going so far as to temporarily leave one of her daughters behind in Africa



Martina Gbeleh's granddaughter Andrea, 4, brings her a bottle of water in the kitchen of their Rock Island home. Gbeleh is a disabled Liberian refugee. Both of her parents were killed in the Liberian civil war. As well as the father of her two youngest children, she has two teenage boys, a teenage daughter and an adult daughter who has three children of her own.

John Schmitz/QUAD-CITY TIMES

Island. "By now, I could be a dead person."

Gbeleh gave up everything to get here, even going so far as to temporarily leave one of her daughters behind in Africa until she got permission from U.S. immigration officials to send for her in 2006.

Her oldest son lives on his own, but the rest of the family lives with her. Money is very tight, she said. Because of her disability, she doesn't work. She receives government assistance to pay her bills and buy food.

She walks with a cane, but it is a struggle sometimes. If she stands too long, her legs lock, she said.

But she never complains, said Johnnie Woods of the Youth Service Bureau, who nominated Gbeleh for assistance

John Schmitz/QUAD-CITY TIMES
Martina Gbeleh's granddaughter Andrea, 4, brings her a bottle of water in the kitchen of their Rock Island home. Gbeleh is a disabled Liberian refugee. Both of her parents were killed in the Liberian civil war, as well as the father of her two youngest children. She has two teenage boys, a teenage daughter and an adult daughter who has three children of her own.

Wish List

Quad-Cities

MARTINA GBELEH

Martina Gbeleh needs a kitchen table and matching chairs; three chests of drawers; three beds for her children; a king-size bed frame for her (she sleeps on a mattress on the floor); a portable walker with a seat to help her walk; winter coats for her and her three teenage children.

ESTIMATED COST: \$2,700

through the Wish List Quad-Cities program.

Woods met Gbeleh when the family was helping a homeless person. She ended up helping Gbeleh get tutoring help for one of her sons, she said.

Now, she hopes to help Gbeleh get a four-wheeled walker with a seat and basket in which she can transport items. She also wants to see the family get new beds, chests of drawers (the kids keep their clothes in plastic boxes

now), and a kitchen table and chairs.

The mother and her three teenage children also need winter coats.

"I've never heard her complain about anything," Woods said. "I think she is very worthy of getting some help."